

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 21, 25, 27, 30 and 31 are amended herein. Claim 32 is added. Claims in the instant case are Claims 1-32.

112 Rejection

Claims 12 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Claims 12 and 31 were rejected for insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 12 and 31 have been amended herein to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Additionally, Claim 30 has been amended.

102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-3, 13, 15, 25, 26, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Helms (5,760,760). The Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully assert that the present invention as recited in Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Helms and that Claims 2, and 3, as they depend from independent Claim 1 and recite additional features of the present claimed invention, are not anticipated by Helms.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to:

“A portable computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a bus;.....
a lighted display device coupled to said bus and for
providing a visual display;....
a data storage device coupled to said bus and
comprising preconfigured dynamically adjustable

brightness range setting data for implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum values; and
wherein said processor automatically selects a stored range of said plurality of stored ranges based on said ambient light information signal from said light sensor.” (emphasis added)

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite further features of the present claimed invention.

In contrast to the present claimed invention, Helms does not teach or suggest the limitation of Claim 1 in which the portable computer system comprises “a data storage device... for implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum values.” The section cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the claimed plurality of ranges, despite the conclusion by the Examiner which is based purely on impermissible hindsight reasoning. Rather, Helms teaches a single range of brightness levels (ABL), each level based on a corresponding ambient light level (AL) stored in a look-up table. The ambient light level is read and the corresponding brightness level is displayed. The user may adjust the brightness level, in which case the single corresponding ABL value is modified in the lookup table, but only one range is stored. Therefore, there may be a plurality of brightness levels stored, but only one range. See Column 5, lines 30-40 and 63-65 and Column 6, lines 8-14 which further explain the passage cited from the abstract upon which the Examiner relies. Nowhere in this explanation is a stored plurality of brightness ranges taught or suggested. Given that the lookup table

stores only one range and individual values within the range may be altered by user preference, it is unclear how this can possibly suggest the storage of a plurality of ranges as claimed.

Applicants respectfully assert that there is no basis for concluding that the device of Helms, or any of the other elements of Helms, use a portable computer system having a plurality of stored ranges of brightness values in the manner of the present invention; specifically, in a portable computer system as recited in independent Claim 1 as amended herein. Applicants further submit that Helms does not teach or suggest the present claimed invention as recited in Claims 2 and 3 that are dependent on Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 2, and 3 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claims 13 and 25 recite similar limitations to those of Claim 1 argued above, and Applicants respectfully re-assert each and every point argued above regarding the rejections of Claim 1 that the present invention as recited in Claims 13 and 25, as amended, are not anticipated by Helms. Moreover, Claim 15, as it depends from Claim 13 and Claims 26, 28 and 29, as they depend from Claim 25, recite additional features of the present claimed invention, and as such are not anticipated or suggested by Helms.

103 Rejection

Claims 4-6 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helms (US Patent No. 5,576,076). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully assert that the present invention as recited in

Claims 4-6 and 16-18 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Helms, and that the present claimed invention is therefore patentable over Helms.

Applicants respectfully re-assert each and every point argued above regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants thus respectfully re-assert that, as amended herein, Claim 1 incorporates subject matter including “implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum values implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum value ...” (emphasis added). Helms teaches an apparatus for adjusting the brightness level of an LCD based on ambient light, but nowhere does Helms teach or suggest the limitation of such a plurality of brightness ranges. Helms only teaches a single range comprising a plurality of brightness levels (ABL), each of which corresponds to one of a plurality of ambient light levels (AL), and which are automatically updated upon manual adjustment by a user.

Claims 4-6 depend upon independent Claim 1, as amended herein. These dependent claims incorporate each and every one of the elements of the corresponding independent claim on which they depend. Therefore, the present invention as recited in Claims 4-6 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Helms, and that the present claimed invention is therefore patentable over Helms.

As amended herein, Claim 13 incorporates similar embodiments to those of Claim 1 including "... a lighted display device coupled to said bus and for providing a visual display;....a data storage device coupled to said bus and comprising preconfigured dynamically adjustable brightness range setting data for implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum value;..." (emphasis added). Helms teaches an apparatus for adjusting the brightness level of an LCD based on ambient light, but nowhere does Helms teach or suggest the limitation of such a plurality of stored brightness ranges.

Claims 16-18 depend upon independent Claim 13, as amended herein. These dependent claims incorporate each and every one of the elements of the corresponding independent claim from which they depend. Therefore, the present invention as recited in Claims 16-18 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Helms, and that the present claimed invention is therefore patentable over Helms.

Claims 7-12, 30, 14, 19-24, 31 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helms (5,760,760) in view of Wagner (5,933,130). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully assert that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 7-12, 30, 14, 19-24, 31 and 27 are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Helms in view of Wagner, and that the present claimed invention is therefore patentable over Helms in view of Wagner.

Applicants respectfully re-assert each and every point argued above regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1, 13 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants thus respectfully re-assert that, as amended herein, Claim 1 incorporates subject matter including “a portable computer system comprising... a light sensor coupled to said bus and for providing an ambient light information signal...a data storage device comprising preconfigured dynamically adjustable brightness range setting data for implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum values”

Claims 7-12 and 30 depend from independent Claim 1, as amended herein. Claims 14, 19-24 and 31 depend from independent Claim 13, as amended herein. Claim 27 depends from independent Claim 25, as amended herein. These dependent claims incorporate each and every one of the elements of the corresponding independent claim on which they depend.

Helms in combination with Wagner does not teach or suggest the claimed limitation of “A portable computer system comprising...a light sensor coupled to said bus and for providing an ambient light information signal...a data storage device...for implementing a plurality of different stored ranges, wherein each stored range of said plurality of stored ranges comprises a brightness range maximum value and a brightness range minimum values” Rather, although Wagner teaches a plurality of brightness ranges, Wagner does not teach providing an ambient light signal. Specifically, Wagner teaches a device in which

a user selects a brightness level and an automatic adjustment is made based on a maximum and minimum value and a pattern, so that the brightness fluctuates as one is working, ostensibly to protect the user's eyes. Nowhere does Wagner suggest to measure the ambient light and adjust brightness with respect thereto. Therefore, there is no suggestion or instruction within the combination of Wagner and Helms to realize the claimed invention.

Moreover, dependent Claims 9, 21 and 32 recite a user adjustable slider:

... wherein the position of said user adjustable slider remains unchanged in response to an automatic change in brightness range between a first selected range and a second selected range and wherein further, said position of said slider in said first selected range corresponds to a different brightness value compared to a brightness value corresponding to said same position of said slider in said second selected range.

The user adjustable slider, as claimed, is neither taught nor suggested by Helms, nor is a plurality of ranges taught or suggested by Helms. Although Wagner teaches a user-adjustable slider, nowhere does Wagner teach or suggest that “in response to an automatic change in brightness range between a first selected range and a second selected range and wherein further, said position of said slider in said first selected range corresponds to a different brightness value compared to a brightness value corresponding to said same position of said slider in said second selected range.” In other words, when the ambient light level changes to cause an automatic change in brightness range, the brightness level within the new range will be at a level relative to the slide position of the old range, but measured on the new range values of the new range. Thus, if a user

has a preference for, e.g., a brightness level that is typically one third of the maximum value in any given range, the slider sets that value and it is maintained whenever the brightness range changes. Additionally, Wagner does not teach or suggest a brightness range that corresponds to a level of ambient light. Therefore, the combination of Helms and Wagner cannot possibly teach or suggest the claim language of independent Claims 9, 21 and 32.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Helms and Wagner does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in Claims 7-12, 30, 14, 19-24, 31 and 27.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 1-32 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of these Claims is respectfully solicited.

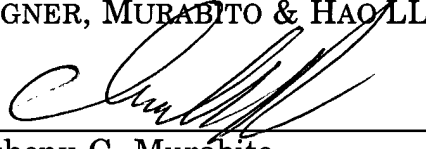
Applicants further point out that no contested Claims remain in the present Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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